

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 28, 2013

Fisheries under Consideration: Mainstem commercial salmon

Stock status and management guidelines for 2013 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 30, 2013).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Counts at Bonneville Dam total just over 80,000 adult upriver spring Chinook. Harvest from treaty and non-treaty fisheries (including release mortalities) downstream of Bonneville Dam totals nearly 8,000 fish. Combined, a total of 88,000 adult upriver spring Chinook have been accounted for to date.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the status of the upriver spring Chinook return this morning (May 28). TAC maintained the inseason forecast of 107,500 adult upriver Chinook to the Columbia River mouth. TAC is scheduled to meet again Monday June 3.
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a river mouth return of 107,500 adult upriver fish allows for an impact rate of 1.6% and a catch balance limit of 7,955 mortalities for non-Indian fisheries.

Non-Treaty Fishery update

- Three mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods have occurred to date in 2013. Combined landings total 1,506 adult spring Chinook. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 1,074 fish, or 57% of allocated under catch balancing limitations. Combined mainstem commercial impacts to upriver spring Chinook are 0.26%, or 63% of the 0.41% allowed (73% of total commercial allocation). A balance of 95 white sturgeon remain on the winter/spring commercial allocation.
- The most recent period occurred on May 22-23 in Zones 1-5 with 8-inch gear. The use of the large-mesh gear was intended to reduce steelhead and shad handle rates. Observation data concluded that steelhead and shad handle rates were less than those observed the week prior.

2013 Spring Chinook Observation Summary_ All data preliminary											
Fishery	Month	Date	Mesh	# of		Zones	Ttl		Chin/ Drift	Sthd/ Drift	Shad
				Drifts			Chin	Sthd			
FullFleet	May	15	4.25	47		1-5	44	8	0.9	0.2	1,900
FullFleet	May	22	8	51		1-5	56	0	1.1	0.0	6

Non-Treaty Fishery Recommendations

- The Joint Staff is making the following recommendations based on an inseason runsize of 107,500 upriver Chinook and the remaining balance of upriver Chinook allocated to the mainstem commercial fishery:

<i>Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery - Recommendation</i>		
Season	7:00 PM Wednesday May 29 to 7:00 AM Thursday May 30, 2013 (12 hours)	
Gear	Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Monofilament is allowed.	
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy River and Washougal river.	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon (43-54 inch fork length). A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Limit applies to mainstem only. Select Areas remain open under a 2 white sturgeon weekly retention limit.	
Regulations:	<p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater</p> <p>Standard regulations typically in place for spring Chinook commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, lighted buoys, tangle-net certification, etc.</p> <p>Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gill net web is deployed into the water until the gill net web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes. Red corks are required at 25 fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required. Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump <u>shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked</u>. All non-legal sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, or placed into an operating recovery box. Any salmonid that is bleeding or lethargic must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.</p>	
Additional Rules:	<p>Observer program: As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with department observers or observers collecting data for the department, when notified by the observer of his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.</p> <p>Live Capture workshop: Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.</p>	

- Estimated kept catch is 300 adult hatchery Chinook. Upriver mortalities are estimated at 275 fish. Season total upriver mortalities would be 1,349 fish, or 72% of the total mainstem commercial allocation at the current inseason run size. Total mainstem commercial impacts to upriver spring Chinook would be 0.39%, or 95% of the 0.41% allowed for mainstem commercial fisheries at the current run size.
- Reducing the sturgeon landing limit will help ensure harvest remains within the 280 fish allocated through the winter/spring seasons.
- The proposed mainstem commercial fishery conflicts with the Youngs Bay Select Area fishery previously adopted. Therefore staff recommends the following action:

<i>Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery - Oregon State Staff Recommendation</i>
Retention and sale of non -adipose fin-clipped Chinook from Youngs Bay is prohibited from 7 PM Wednesday May 29 to 12:00 PM (noon) Thursday May 30, 2013.

Actual and Proposed Non-Indian Catch Balance

Summary of 2013 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (141.4 K)	Inseason Allocated (107.5 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	% of allocated
Commercial						
Mainstem (actual and projected)	1,222	1,885	1,074	275	1,349	72%
Select Area (ongoing)	148	161	151	10	161	100%
Recreational						
Below Bonneville (thru May 24)	4,934	4,896	3,539	1,273	4,812	98%
Bonn to OR/WA border (closed)	658	653	607	0	607	93%
Snake River (closed May 27)	351	348	342	0	342	98%
Wanapum Tribal (pending)	12	12	0	12	12	0%
Total Upriver Mortalities	7,325	7,955	5713	1,570	7,283	92%

- Based on the actual, projected and proposed seasons an estimated 7,283 adult upriver spring Chinook mortalities would occur in non-Indian fisheries. This would require a run size of at least 98,500 adult upriver spring Chinook to the Columbia River mouth.

Future Hearing

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Tuesday June 4 to consider additional mainstem commercial fishing periods.